

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 041550Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHINGTON
USCINCEUR-ECAP
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE 9663
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS MADRID 2548

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

USIA FOR IOP/F MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ARMS LIMITATION

1. APRIL 2 EL PAIS (LEFT CENTER): "THE UNITED STATES AND
THE SOVIET UNION YESTERDAY INTENSIFIED THEIR CROSSFIRE
OF REPROACHES FOR THE FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS
...ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI SAID THAT THE SOVIETS...HAD
'STOPPED A GIANT STEP TOWARD DISARMAMENT.' BRZEZINSKI
ALSO INDICATED THAT CARTER WOULD NOT ABANDON HIS EUROPEAN
ALLIES NOR MODIFY HIS POLICY IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

2. JOSE LUIS GOTOR WRITES FROM ROME FOR APRIL 2 EL PAIS:
"ITALIAN PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES AGREE THAT THE
FAILURE OF...VANCE IN MOSCOW WEAKENS EUROCOMMUNISM AND
...DETENTE; BECAUSE OF THIS, SO IT IS BELIEVED IN ITALY
THE HALT TO THE SECOND SALT ROUND IS MORE POLITICAL THAN
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TECHNICAL...ITALIAN COMMENTARIES ABOUT THE SPECIFIC
WEIGHT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE FAILURE OF THE
CONVERSATIONS WITH MOSCOW AGREED WITH THE DECLARATION IN
ROME...BY ANDREI SINIAVSKI, IN THE SENSE THAT 'COMMUNISM
IN THE USSR HAS DIED AS A DOCTRINE' AND THAT 'NOT EVEN
THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IN IT.'

3. "FOR THEIR PART, THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS NEW SITUATION. THEY KNOW THAT A HARDENING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT CUROCOMMUNISM, TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE PCI YESTERDAY REFERRED TO ITALIAN INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY, REFERRING TO AN ITEM PUBLISHED BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND DENIED BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME, THAT AFFIRMED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD PREPARED FOR LAST MARCH 18 A DECLARATION FAVORABLE TO THE PCI, BUT WHICH WAS HALTED...BY BRZEZINSKI AS A RESULT OF PRESSURES FROM...GIULIO ANDREOTTI."

4. APRIL 2 DIARIO 16 (MODERATE LEFT SENSATIONALIST):
"THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROPOSED TO THE UNITED STATES THE INTRODUCTION, WITHIN THE SALT CONVERSATIONS, OF A FORMAL PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF THE AMERICAN ADVANCED BASES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ACCORDING TO...VANCE. AMERICAN OFFICIALS LINKED THIS NEW SOVIET EFFORT TO DISCUSS THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR PRESENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, WHICH PRESUMABLY INCLUDES THE BASES OF ROTA AND TORREJON IN SPAIN., WITH THE RECENT PROPOSAL BY THE WARSAW PACT TO NATO TO LIMIT MEMBERSHIP...IN BOTH ORGANIZATIONS, VANCE ADMITTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC OF THE BASES...NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAILURE OF THIS ROUND OF CONVERSATIONS...BUT THAT IT ALSO THREATENED TO 'MODIFY THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS'..."

5. APRIL 3ABC (DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE) REPORTER RAMON PEDROS WRITES FROM MOSCOW: "IN TWO AND A HALF MONTHS SINCE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TAKING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE, THE SOVIET POSTURE TOWARD THE NEW DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION HAS CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. THAT YOUNG MAN, AT LEAST APPARENTLY A BIT INGENUOUS AND VERY IDEALISTIC, HAS COME OUT A FINE THING FOR MOSCOW. NOW GERALD FORD IS PUT FORTH AS AN EXAMPLE, FOR HE WAS NOT SO 'INCOHERENT' AND, FURTHER, THE ROT INHERENT IN BOURGEOIS SOCIETY MADE HIM FALL INTO VLADIVOSTOCK... THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF ANDRE GROMYKO...SERVED TO... DENOUNCE THE 'INSTABILITY' OF THE WHITE HOUSE... THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ALL THE VANCE HAD BROUGHT WAS PURE VERBAGE TO JUGGLE THE PROBLEM THROUGH A 'SLIPPERY AND DIRTY MANEUVER.'

6. "HOPE REMAINS. THE DESIRE TO ARRIVE AT A LIMITATION TO THE ARMAMENTS RACE REMAINS...THE CYRUS VANCE AFFAIR COULD BE SEEN IN ADVANCE. BUT WHAT CANNOT NOW BE SEEN IN ADVANCE IS ANY CERTAIN FUTURE. AS THINGS STAND, ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO BREAK THE ICE OF VERBAGE SO THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW WOULD HAVE SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS TO OCCUPY

THEM..." ITEM. RYLANCE

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